


**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Justification and Approval**  
**For**  
**Other Than Full and Open Competition**

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, NCO 12, 695 Medical Center Department of Veterans Affairs, Great Lakes Acquisition Center, 115 South 84th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53214
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** There is an immediate need for an ambulance transportation services contract for both advanced and basic life support services at Milwaukee Zablocki VAMC. In order to continue providing these critical services, a sole source contract of six months is proposed to enable acquisitions time to obtain a legally sufficient solicitation package and conduct a properly competed acquisition.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** Zablocki VAMC has an immediate and vital need for an ambulance transportation services contract vehicle in order to maintain operations. Contractor shall provide all equipment, labor, materials and supervision required for safe and efficient ambulance transportation including advanced life support, medical intensive care unit support, and basic life support for Zablocki VAMC and affiliated CBOCS. Transportation includes but is not limited to one way trips between VA facilities, resident to VA facility, VA to affiliated hospitals, and all associated labor, equipment, and supplies necessary to assure patient safety in process. The cost of these services is estimated at \$24,416.67.00 per month or a total of approximately \$149,000.00 for 6 months, based on historical data.
4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**  
(X) (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):** Advanced life support, medical intensive care unit support, and basic life support ambulance transportation services and all associated equipment are vital to operations of the VA Medical Center. Conversion to a new vendor would be disruptive and put both operations and patient's lives at considerable risk. Significant additional time and costs are required for properly competing, awarding, transitioning and reconfiguring procedures while ensuring that patient safety is not put at risk. Awarding a new contract would take approximately 6 months to properly conduct the acquisition process and transition. All nursing stations, patient wards, doctors, transportation personnel, and fiscal would be required to change processes and procedures that were setup with the incumbent contractor (if necessary). NCO 12 is currently in the process of performing market research to determine the best strategy for garnering competition. To prevent disruption of the current service, a short-term sole source to the incumbent Curtis Ambulance is required until a long-term contract is put into place, pursuant to acquisition regulations. Curtis Ambulance is the only current source that possesses all of the minimum requirements for performing the service including personnel that are in compliance with the VA's security procedures, equipment in accordance with Federal and State regulations, and approved billing/financial procedures.


6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** It is anticipated that a long-term contract will be competed for these services within the next six months to allow adequate transition time and mitigate any disruption of service. A sources sought notice will be posted by February 1, 2013.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The contractor the Government intends to solicit is the incumbent contractor for the same services proposed at Zablocki VAMC. The current contract was awarded based on competitive pricing and determined fair and reasonable. Also, numerous other facilities within VISN 12 contract out similar services. The requirements have not changed from previous contracts nor have any contractor costs significantly decreased. The contracting office has therefore determined that adequate information is available for comparison and to ensure that the pricing is fair and reasonable prior to award.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** Market research has indicated that other providers may be able to meet this requirement. Market research is ongoing and includes a sources sought notice, market research survey, and discussions with subject matter experts in the field. Further market research will be used to determine the best value procurement approach.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** None
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** The contracting office contacted the incumbent contractor to determine if they'd be interested in continuing services on a limited basis while a competitive procurement was conducted and they confirmed that they would be interested. They also indicated that would be willing to maintain current pricing.
11. **A Statement of the Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition before Making subsequent acquisitions for the supplies or services required:** The NCO 12 intends to conduct a competitive procurement for a firm-fixed price contract for ambulance services, both ALS and BLS, within the next six months.
12. **Requirements Certification:** I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide Need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
*(This signature is the requestor's supervisor, fund control point official, chief of service, someone with responsibility and accountability)*

  
Beth Ann Smith  
Program Manager, Benefits Manager  
Zablocki VAMC, Milwaukee WI

1/28/13  
Date

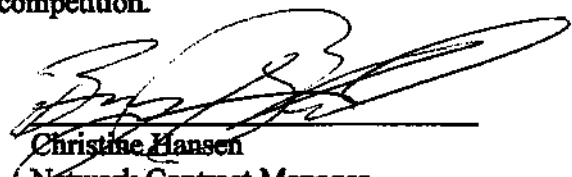
**13. Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304**

- a. **Contracting Officer's Certification: (required)** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
Trong Nguyen  
Contracting Officer  
Network Contracting Office 12, Great Lakes Acquisition Center

1/28/13  
Date

- b. **NCM/PCM:** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

for   
Christine Hansen  
Network Contract Manager  
Network Contracting Office 12, Great Lakes Acquisition Center

1/30/13  
Date